

What Security for Europe in a Changing World?

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U.S. Presentation – Homeland Security since 9/11

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Good morning, it is my honor to be part of this conference today. I would like to thank the conference organizers for this opportunity and my fellow panelists for the presentations that they will provide later today.

I must also say that I am honored to be in the beautiful city of Brno. I have always enjoyed my visits to the Czech Republic; I was especially pleased to be a member of the U.S. Government team that conducted the final certification of Czech security programs which lead to the approval of the Czech Republic as a U.S. Visa Waiver Country. I am a strong believer that strong security enhances travel, trade and commerce and that we benefit the most by working in partnership with our colleagues in the Europe.

I would like to begin by first acknowledging, the momentous developments of just over a week ago. As Secretary Napolitano said, “The death of Osama bin Laden is an important success not only for the United States, but the entire world.”

However, this is not the end of our effort to counter terrorism nor does this one

event ensure security. There is no doubt that al Qaeda, and other organizations, will continue to pursue attacks against the west. I believe that we must all remain vigilant and work together to ensure our shared security. Thus, while Bin Laden's death is a major moment in history and a milestone to ensuring security, many threat streams remain, and I believe that we must continue to work relentlessly to prevent and mitigate these threats, as we have since 9/11. The threat of terrorism has not disappeared, and in many ways, it has grown more adaptable and harder to prevent. **(SLIDE 2)** The first key point of this presentation for me is that “*Security is a shared responsibility, more now than ever before.*”

The title of this session is 9/11 as a security memento and I would like to formally begin by recognizing that much has changed since that terrible September day. One example is that the Department of Homeland Security did not exist on September 11th and was built out of the ashes of that day. Its inception in 2003, was stipulated in the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Preventing terrorist attacks against the United States and the American people and enhancing security have been and continue to be the foremost missions of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This is just one of the many U.S. agencies that are working together, both domestically and with our foreign partners to enhance our mutual security.

Throughout this presentation, I would like to concentrate on the role of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a “key memento of 9/11.” **(SLIDE 3)**

Preventing terrorist attacks in the United States is the first of DHS’s five primary missions. DHS also integrates preventing terrorism into its four other primary missions—securing and managing our borders, enforcing and administering our immigration laws, safeguarding and securing cyberspace, and ensuring resilience to disasters of all kinds.

(SLIDE 4) I believe that border management, enforced immigration laws, cyber security and resilience are all linked to a secure future.

To carry out these responsibilities, the Department is comprised of several component agencies. Prior to 9/11, these responsibilities were scattered through a variety of U.S. Departments, while today these security programs are joined together under Secretary Napolitano.

(SLIDE 5) DHS however is just one of the U.S. departments working in this arena. DHS works closely with our U.S. Government counterparts to include the

Department of Justice, the National Counter Terrorism Center, and the Department of State, to name a few. Since 9/11 we have seen closer coordination and cooperation amongst all these agencies; and we have strengthened U.S. Government policy and risk management. I believe that “Clear Direction, Policy and Guidelines help to Ensure Security.”

In this changing world, we, the United States, Europe and our international partners must work together to prevent threats and reduce risk. We must work together to identify, detect, and ultimately prevent threats from materializing, ... and to mitigate and respond to them when they do.

DHS also recognizes the importance of privacy and data protection. DHS is committed to working to counter and mitigate threats while being ever mindful of the importance of data protection and individual privacy.

(SLIDE 6) The world has changed a lot since September 11, 2001. Unfortunately 9/11 was not an isolated event; there have been numerous attacks since that terrible day. Many of these attacks have also unfortunately taken place on European soil. I believe that the definition of security in a changing world means that we must

recognize that we are all connected; and that international cooperation is critical to our mutual security.

On December 25th 2009 Abdulmatallab tried to ignite a bomb on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit, in October of last year U.K. officials discovered a viable bomb concealed inside a toner cartridge and earlier this year a lone gunman shot service men on a bus in Germany. These incidents highlight attempts to use international aviation systems and our airports to deliver terror. These attacks underscore the interdependence of international security, not just for the United States but also for Europe. **(SLIDE 7)** Terrorists and criminals look for vulnerabilities in international networks and systems to carry out their attacks.

(SLIDE 8) To this end, I believe that it is critically important to work through international partnership to respond operationally to these threats and to share knowledge and expertise that will ultimately improve security for all of us.

Many of the United States closest and most important international partners are represented in this room today. Our partnership with the European Union and its member states is critical to both our economic and our security successes. DHS recognizes the importance of our ongoing relationships both bilaterally with the

individual countries of Europe and multilaterally with various institutions and organizations within the EU. Secretary Napolitano, Deputy Secretary Lute, Secretary Clinton, and Attorney General Holder engage regularly with their bilateral counterparts throughout Europe, and participate in recurring Ministerial-level meetings.

9/11 emphasized the importance of working together. Our relationships in the U.S. and with our foreign allies have been central to any post 9/11 successes. As way of illustrating this point, I would like to highlight that DHS currently has 394 employees posted across Europe, including 296 U.S. government direct hires, and 98 locally employed staff. I am honored to serve in London as the Homeland Security Attaché to the United Kingdom and I work very closely with Jackie Bednarz, the DHS Attaché in Brussels. Together we serve as DHS representatives charged with coordinating Departmental policy and operational activities with you our European partners.

As part of this presentation, I would like to highlight three points for DHS. The first is that DHS believes in the importance of actively working with our European allies strategically and operationally to prevent terrorist attacks. Second, I want to recognize the ways that DHS and you our European partners cooperate closely to

prevent terrorist travel. Third, I want to mention the importance of high security standards that have led to our ability to ensure visa-free travel under the Visa Waiver Program.

(SLIDE 9) On the first point, I believe that we can best ensure security for Europe and the United States by [working together to secure and to facilitate the flow of travel and trade between Europe and the United States](#). As I just mentioned, DHS has nearly 400 employees in Europe working daily with European governments, the traveling public, the aviation industry, cargo shippers and others involved in international travel and trade. Together with you, our European partners we secure more than 30,000 passengers traveling daily from Europe to the U.S, more than 3,000 containers from European ports destined for U.S., and approximately \$1 billion of daily investment between our two continents, not to mention the protection of our shared cyberspace.

It is DHS's goal to facilitate legitimate transatlantic travel, trade and exchange, all of which are critical to the U.S. and European economies, while preventing the flow of illicit goods and people and investigating illegal activity.

This cooperation takes place at the operational level, with our personnel on the ground in Europe as well as at the policy and strategic levels in Europe and Washington D.C.

Following the December 25, 2009 attempted bombing of Northwest 253, together we launched an unprecedented international effort to identify gaps in the global aviation system and to strengthen global aviation security standards. We began this outreach with you, as well as other key international partners and multilateral organizations, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). On January 21, 2010, Secretary Napolitano and her European counterparts issued a joint declaration at the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial in Toledo, Spain (“the Toledo Declaration”) calling for enhanced aviation security standards around the world. This declaration was a significant benchmark in our mutual efforts to strengthen aviation security standards globally. That effort culminated in a unanimous Declaration on Aviation Security at the 37th ICAO General Assembly in October 2010. **(SLIDE 10)** The declaration is a good example of what I believe is the [foundation for security in a changing world: increased information collection and appropriate sharing of data, stronger passenger vetting and screening measures, the development of advanced screening technologies, and cooperation with the international community](#). I believe that through our work with you, this

foundation for security will strengthen aviation security standards and efforts worldwide.

I would like to also briefly mention the global supply chain initiative which DHS launched in January 2011, following the October 2010 toner cartridge bomb from Yemen. DHS has been working closely with member states as well as with the World Customs Organization, ICAO, and the International Maritime Organization to coordinate and advance this initiative designed to strengthen the security and resilience of the global supply chain.

(SLIDE 11) The supply chain initiative and the aviation security measures are two examples of international cooperation to raise security standards. **We can secure the future by working together to improve the overall security of global transportation and exchange systems, including the development of compatible standards and approaches.** Europe is a key partner in this work to establish and enhance standards for global aviation security, global supply chain security, and other security challenges.

(SLIDE 12) I would like to now turn to the problem of terrorist travel; I believe that the **travel of terrorists and potential terrorists represents one of the greatest**

[threats to European and U.S. security](#). Disrupting terrorist travel is a key DHS goal in our overall efforts against terrorism. Every week, there are more than 2,500 flights between the United States and Europe, and the potential threat underscores the necessity of analyzing travel and passenger data and sharing information in order to identify both known and unknown potential terrorists.

An example of how DHS works to address terrorist travel is Customs and Border Protection officers assigned to foreign airports who work with airlines and foreign officials to identify high-risk and improperly documented travelers before they can board an outbound aircraft. DHS also uses advanced passenger screening tools to identify not just known or suspected terrorists but also yet unknown terrorists or illegal activity.

(SLIDE 13) I recognize that [we are stronger by sharing best practices at both the operational and strategic level](#). Some examples of DHS cooperative work with Europe include work on explosives security, information sharing, risk analysis, training, and research and development.

Additionally, DHS is pleased to be among the external partners of [Frontex](#), the EU external border agency. In fact, we were the first partner outside of the immediate

European neighborhood to sign a Cooperative Work Arrangement with Frontex. The Arrangement, signed in April 2009, enables cooperation, within the competences of Frontex and DHS, on countering illegal/irregular migration, related cross-border crime and international threats, and to contribute to the strengthening of border security management. Through the Arrangement, we also further develop good relations and mutual trust, and promote future additional communication and cooperation among authorities involved in border security management activities in the United States, in the EU Member States and Frontex.

DHS recognizes that working with the EU on strategic issues is critically important. One key strategic issue is data privacy and data protection. In an effort to improve our information sharing relationship and to dispel misperceptions, the Department of Justice, the State Department, and the Department of Homeland Security have been working since 2006 to come to an agreement on common data privacy principles for information sharing in the law enforcement and public security context. On March 28, 2011, DHS and the Department of Justice began negotiating a Data Protection Agreement with the EU to protect personal information exchanged in the context of fighting crime and terrorism. We look forward to these continuing discussions.

In the area of Terrorist Financing, TFTP continues to be a vital tool for disrupting terrorist and criminal financing; although TFTP is a Department of Treasury Program, DHS works closely with Treasury in support of this vital program. DHS also works to identify illegal bulk cash movements as a means to stop illicit financing of terrorist and criminal activities.

Finally, I would like to briefly mention the importance of our PNR negotiations with the EU. We hold that PNR is a vital tool in the fight against terrorism and serious transnational crime. PNR is critical to the United States' ability to effectively identify both known and as yet unknown threats. In fiscal year 2010, approximately one quarter of those individuals denied entry to the United States for having ties to terrorism were initially identified through the analysis of PNR. Because of the vital importance of this program, DHS has entered EU negotiations with the goal of improving security while reassuring you, our allies, about our ability and commitment to protect individual privacy.

I would like to now turn to the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) for the United States is an important method for ensuring travel and commerce between many countries. Since 1986, the VWP has allowed eligible citizens of member countries to travel to the United States for business or tourism

without first obtaining a visa. The 36 countries currently participating in the VWP are among our closest international partners in the fight against terrorism. Thirty VWP countries are European, and include 23 of the 27 E.U. Member States. Following the events of 9/11, the U.S. Congress made explicit the connection between security cooperation and the VWP. As a result, VWP approval includes entry into agreements to share lost and stolen passport data through INTERPOL; sharing security and law enforcement information; cooperation on repatriation matters; and the strengthening of document security standards. Combined, these enhancements to existing agreements allowed us to continue and expand visa free travel to the United States. DHS will work with interested non-VWP countries towards meeting the requirements of VWP to include review of statistics to meet threshold requirements, development of security and information sharing agreements and an assessment to determine eligibility. Ensuring facilitation of legitimate trade and travel is key to our security.

This morning, I have tried to highlight just some of the ways that U.S. security programs changed after the events of September 11, 2001.

In summary I would like to review my main points: **(SLIDE 14)**

- 9/11 was not an isolated event and real threats to our security still exist;

- Security is a shared responsibility and we must work together to prevent threats and reduce risk;
- Clear guidelines, direction and policy enhance security;
- **(SLIDE 15)** It is critical to work through international partnerships to respond operationally to threats and to share knowledge and expertise that will ultimately improve security;
- **(SLIDE 16)** The travel of terrorists and potential terrorists represents one of the greatest threats to European and U.S. security;
- Terrorists and criminals look for vulnerabilities in international networks and systems to carry out their attacks;
- **(SLIDE 17)** Good border management, enforced immigration laws, cyber security and resilience are all linked to a secure future;
- **(SLIDE 18)** Key tools for security in a changing world include:
 - a. increased information collection and appropriate sharing of data,
 - b. stronger passenger vetting and screening measures,
 - c. the development of advanced screening technologies, and
 - d. cooperation with the international community;
- **(SLIDE 19)** We can Ensure a Secure Future by:
 - a. Sharing Best Practices and by Developing Compatible Standards & Approaches; and by

- b. Facilitating Legitimate Travel & Trade, while preventing the Flow of Illicit Goods & People and by investigating illegal activity.

(SLIDE 20) I believe that by working together we can better ensure our mutual security. I look forward to working with you as we explore what security means for Europe and the United States in a changing world. I especially look forward to exploring opportunities to advance cooperation with you, my European partners.

Thank you again for this opportunity; I look forward to the remaining speeches today and to speaking with you throughout the day.